

7857 2nd Avenue S
St. Petersburg, FL 33707-1023

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

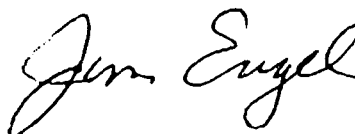
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in support of the settlement that you have reached with Microsoft in November. I know that, while not yet finalized, this settlement brings the promise of an end to the Microsoft lawsuit at the federal level.

I hope that everyone will see just how much Microsoft is willing to sacrifice in order to bring about an end to this settlement. By offering its proprietary code and the rights that go along with it, Microsoft is forgoing billions in creative profits. And that provision is merely a small portion of the overall settlement.

This settlement should be agreeable to everyone and I feel that the states that refuse to settle are only trying to pad their own budgets like they did with the tobacco companies. But this time, they are attacking a company that is vital to the average American and the economy. Hopefully, with this settlement finalized, they will fall in line with the rest of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Engel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Engel" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Engel